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LETTER DATED 10 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea on 10 June 1998 in response to Ethiopia's unfounded allegation that Eritrea has expelled Ethiopian nationals from the country.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea on 10 June 1998

Eritrea has not expelled Ethiopians from the country

The Ethiopian Government has alleged in a press statement issued by its Foreign Ministry yesterday, 9 June 1998, that "Eritrea has expelled 3,000 Ethiopians from the country". This allegation is a pure fabrication without any foundation and apparently intended to gain popular support for its declared war on Eritrea by inflaming hatred among Ethiopians.

There are over 100,000 Ethiopians residing in Eritrea and they continue to lead their daily lives without reprisals of any kind on account of the current crisis. However, when all foreigners in Eritrea are being evacuated from Asmara as a result of Ethiopia's threats of "an imminent and indiscriminate air strike" against the capital, it would not be surprising if some Ethiopians would want to leave the country of their own volition.